

Express Mail Label No. EV 655366957 US

Application No. 09/621,830

Atty. Docket No. 4811-9

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A flocked transfer ~~consisting essentially of comprising:~~
a release sheet[[:]];
a release agent on the release sheet[[:]]; and
a plurality of flock fibers on the release agent[[:]], the flock fibers being formed in a desired pattern on the release sheet and being substantially perpendicular to the sheet[[:]], the release agent holding the flock fibers to the release sheet[, wherein a]];

a pre-formed, solid, and self-supporting thermosetting sheet, film is adhered to the transfer wherein at least substantially all of the flock fibers, oriented substantially perpendicular to the release sheet, contact the thermosetting sheet:[[:]]

and wherein there is no binder adhesive positioned between the thermosetting film sheet and the flock.

2. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture including the transfer of Claim 1, wherein the transfer is adhered to a substrate and wherein there is no hot melt adhesive contacting the thermosetting film sheet.

3. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of Claim 2, wherein the transfer is adhered to the substrate using the thermosetting film sheet.

4. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 3, wherein the thermosetting film sheet is a thermosetting polyurethane film or a thermosetting polyester film.

5-17. (Canceled)

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18. (Currently Amended) A flocked transfer assembly, comprising:

~~a transfer consisting essentially of a release sheet~~[[,]] ;

a release agent on the release sheet[, and]];

flock on the release agent; the flock being formed in a desired pattern on the release sheet[[;]], the release agent being located between the flock and the release sheet and holding the flock to the release sheet[[,]]; and

a pre-formed, solid, continuous, and self-supporting thermosetting [[film]] sheet engaging free ends of the flock, the flock being located between the release agent and the thermosetting sheet and defining a free surface, wherein at least most of the free surface of the flock is in direct physical contact with the thermosetting sheet; and

wherein the thermosetting sheet has a substantially uniform thickness and substantially flat upper and lower surfaces, and wherein at least most of the flock fibers are substantially perpendicular to the upper and lower surfaces and to the release sheet and wherein the transfer is adhered to the thermosetting film in the absence of a binder adhesive.

19. (Currently Amended) The flocked transfer assembly of Claim 18, wherein the release agent and release sheet are located on a first surface of the flock and the thermosetting ~~film~~ sheet is positioned on a second surface of the flock and the first and second surfaces are in an opposing relationship.

20. (Currently Amended) The flocked transfer assembly of Claim 18, wherein the thermosetting ~~film~~ sheet comprises polyurethane.

21. (Currently Amended) The flocked transfer assembly of Claim 18, wherein the thermosetting ~~film~~ sheet is precut to correspond to a shape of the transfer.

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22. (Currently Amended) The article flocked transfer assembly of Claim 18, wherein the thermosetting film sheet is cross-linked and wherein the thermosetting film sheet is not in contact with a hot melt adhesive.

23. (Currently Amended) The flocked transfer assembly of Claim 18, wherein the thermosetting film sheet is adhered to the flock and there is no binder adhesive located between the thermosetting film sheet and the flock.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) The flocked transfer assembly of Claim 18, wherein the thermosetting film is not fully cross-linked.

26. (Currently Amended) A flocked transfer assembly, comprising:

a release [[film]] sheet[[,]];

a release agent on the release [[film]] sheet[[, and]]

flock contacting the release agent[[;]], the flock being formed in a desired pattern on the release sheet and defining opposing first and second surfaces, the release agent contacting the first surface and holding the flock to the release [[film]] sheet[[,]];

wherein the free surface of the flock is adhered to a pre-formed, solid, and self-supporting thermosetting adhesive sheet and wherein the thermosetting adhesive is in the form of a film prior to contact with the free surface of the flock having a first side engaging free ends of the flock and a second side; and

a substrate adhered to a second side of said thermosetting sheet;

wherein at least substantially most of the second surface is adhered to the thermosetting sheet; and

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wherein there is no binder adhesive positioned between the flock and the substrate.

27. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture including the transfer of Claim 26, wherein ~~the transfer is adhered to a substrate in the absence of a~~ wherein there is no hot melt adhesive between the flock and the substrate.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 28, wherein the thermosetting adhesive sheet is a thermosetting polyurethane film or a thermosetting polyester film.

30. (Currently Amended) The flocked transfer assembly of Claim 26, wherein the thermosetting adhesive sheet is in direct contact with the flock fibers.

31. (Currently Amended) The article of Claim 28, wherein the thermosetting adhesive sheet is cross-linked and wherein the thermosetting adhesive sheet is adhered to the free surface of the flock in the absence of a binder adhesive.

32. (Currently Amended) The flocked transfer assembly of Claim 26, wherein there is no binder adhesive located between the thermosetting adhesive sheet and the flock.

33. (Previously Presented) The flocked transfer assembly of Claim 26, wherein the free surface of the flock is free of an acrylic adhesive.

34. (Previously Presented) The flocked transfer assembly of Claim 26, wherein the thermosetting adhesive is not fully cross-linked.

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35. (Currently Amended) The flocked transfer assembly of Claim 26, wherein the flock comprises a plurality of flock fibers, the release agent and release ~~film~~ sheet are located on a first surface of the flock, and the free and first surfaces are defined, respectively, by opposing ends of the flock fibers.

36. (Currently Amended) The flocked transfer assembly of Claim 26, wherein the thermosetting adhesive sheet comprises polyurethane.

37. (Currently Amended) The flocked transfer assembly of Claim 33, wherein the thermosetting adhesive sheet ~~is in the form of a film and~~ is cut, before application to the flock, to correspond to a shape of the flocked transfer assembly.

38. (Currently Amended) The flocked transfer assembly of Claim 26, wherein the transfer is free of a binder adhesive between the flock and the thermosetting adhesive sheet.

39. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of Claim 24, wherein the substrate comprises rubber.

40. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of Claim 39, further comprising a fringe material extending outwardly from peripheral edges of the substrate.

41. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of Claim ~~[[27]]~~ 26, wherein the substrate comprises rubber.

42. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of Claim 41, further comprising a fringe material extending outwardly from peripheral edges of the substrate.

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43. (Canceled)

44. (Currently Amended) The flocked transfer assembly of Claim 43, wherein the flock comprises a plurality of flock fibers, and wherein at least most of an adjacent surface of the transfer the plurality flock of flock fibers are ~~[[is]]~~ in direct physical contact with the thermosetting ~~film~~ sheet.

45. (Currently Amended) The flocked transfer assembly of Claim 26, wherein the free surface of the flock is in direct physical contact with the thermosetting adhesive sheet.

46. (Currently Amended) The flocked transfer assembly of Claim 45, wherein the flock comprises a plurality of flock fibers, and wherein at least most of the free surface of the transfer plurality of flock fibers are ~~[[is]]~~ in direct physical contact with the thermosetting adhesive sheet.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Currently Amended) The flocked transfer assembly of Claim 18, wherein the adhesive component of the thermosetting ~~film sheet~~ consists essentially of a thermosetting material.

49. (Canceled)

50. (Currently Amended) The flocked transfer assembly of Claim 26, wherein the ~~thermosetting adhesive is in the form of a film and the adhesive component of the film consists essentially of a thermosetting material.~~

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51. (Currently Amended) The flocked transfer of Claim 1, wherein the thermosetting film sheet comprises a thermosetting polyester.

52. (Currently Amended) The flocked transfer assembly of Claim 18, wherein the thermosetting film sheet comprises a thermosetting polyester.

53. (Currently Amended) The flocked transfer assembly of Claim 26, wherein the thermosetting adhesive sheet comprises a thermosetting polyester.

54. (New) The flocked transfer assembly of Claim 18, wherein there is no binder adhesive between the flock and the thermosetting sheet.

55. (New) The flocked transfer of Claim 1, wherein the thermosetting sheet has a substantially uniform thickness and substantially flat upper and lower surfaces.

55. (New) The flocked transfer of Claim 26, wherein the thermosetting sheet has a substantially uniform thickness and substantially flat upper and lower surfaces.

56. (New) The flocked transfer of Claim 1, wherein substantially none of the thermoplastic sheet fails to contact the free ends of the flock.

57. (New) The flocked transfer of Claim 18, wherein substantially none of the thermoplastic sheet fails to contact the free ends of the flock.

58. (New) The flocked transfer of Claim 26, wherein substantially none of the thermoplastic sheet fails to contact the free ends of the flock.

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59. (New) The flocked transfer of Claim 1, wherein said thermosetting sheet is continuous.

60. (New) The flocked transfer of Claim 26, wherein said thermosetting sheet is continuous.